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Secretary Bryan's Peace Plan.

Secretary of State Bryan, as was to have been expected, has lost no time in putting forward his suggestions in regard to a plan for the further advancement of world peace. In an interview with the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs he has communicated to the Senators who will first have to pass upon any convention which may be submitted by the President, the essential features of a treaty of arbitration which it is understood will be drafted and sent in to the Senate in the near future for ratification.

By this course certain criticisms which the Taft treaties encountered will be avoided. Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs complained that they had not been consulted before the treaties were sent in by the President. As the Senate is an essential part of the treaty-making power, they felt that they had not been treated fairly by the withholding from them of the contents of the conventions until

they were presented to the Senate in completed form. Whether this had anything to do with the fate of the treaties negotiated by the last Administration, we can not say, but at any rate no such obstacle will meet the new treaties when the President refers them to the Senate. Further than this, Mr. Bryan has virtually taken the whole country into his confidence by allowing to be published the essential features of his plan. All this, we are sure, will contribute to a favorable reception of such treaties as shall be negotiated, by both the Senate and the country. The members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs were, for the most part, favorably impressed with Mr. Bryan's presentation of his proposals to them, and the general public also, as represented by the press, has shown itself favorable. This latter was of course to be expected after the widespread and cordial endorsement of the Taft treaties.

The essential features of the Administration's plan—for President Wilson and Secretary Bryan are in full accord about it—are about as follows, so far as can be gathered from what has been given out:

1. First, the negotiation of arbitration treaties with not only Great Britain and France, as was done by the former Administration, but also with Germany and all other powers which may be ready to enter into agreement with us.

2. Second, the inclusion within these treaties of the obligation to arbitrate all controversies of whatever nature that may arise between the contracting parties, no exception being made of questions of national honor and vital interests.

3. The insertion in the treaties of an agreement between the parties that in the case of any controversy which either of them may hold to be improper to submit to arbitration a commission of inquiry shall be appointed to investigate and make report on the facts of the case, the investigation not to be considered as an arbitration and the report to have no binding force, no acts of hostility in the meantime to be committed by either of the powers. Mr. Bryan believes that though the report of such a commission, after careful inquiry into the facts, may have no binding force, yet the delay thereby secured would give time for reconsideration and for assuagement of feelings, and that thus war would practically always be avoided. The successful employment, in the Dogger Bank affair, of the commission of inquiry provided for in the Hague Convention goes far to establish the soundness of this reasoning. The plan of Mr. Bryan means only the further carrying out of the same principle by introducing it into a treaty in an obligatory form, instead of leaving it entirely vol-

untary, as in the Hague Convention. The Secretary of State first called public attention to this principle in the notable address which he delivered at the Interparliamentary Conference in London about seven years ago, and he has frequently in subsequent speeches made reference to the potentiality of such an agreement between nations.

Mr. Bryan's plan seems further to contemplate the attempt, at an early date, either by direct negotiation or through an international conference, to secure some sort of an understanding among the military and naval powers for an arrest of army and navy increase and a reduction of the present overgrown and distressingly burdensome establishments. Things which have recently been said in European capitals, especially in London and Berlin, give hope that even in this direction a well directed effort on the part of our government may not be without almost immediate practical results. At any rate, the international situation in this regard is so serious as to demand an immediate attempt to relieve it, and we very much hope that the Administration will unhesitatingly and courageously take the step which it is loudly hinted is in contemplation. There is reason to believe that such a course, while it would be stubbornly resisted by a few, whom it is needless to specify, would meet with the enthusiastic and overwhelming support of the great masses of the people.

The St. Louis Peace Congress.

Before this number of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* reaches our readers the Fourth American Peace Congress will have finished its labors at St. Louis. On the eve of the meeting the prospects are flattering for a very large and influential Congress. Many prominent leaders in the Peace Movement from different sections of the nation will be present, among whom will be Secretary Bryan, Senator Burton, Andrew Carnegie, Representative Richard Bartholdt, Edwin D. Mead, Hon. Charles W. Fairbanks, Hon. P. P. Claxton, President Charles F. Thwing, President S. C. Mitchell, Dr. David Starr Jordan, Dr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Hon. John Barrett, Prof. P. V. N. Myers, Justice William Renwick Riddell, of Canada, and of course many of the leading workers of the American Peace Society, its constituent branches, and other affiliated organizations. We shall expect to give in our June issue an extended account of the Congress, including some of the addresses delivered.

Editorial Notes.

While on his recent lecture tour in this country, Mr. Alfred Noyes, the English poet, in an address before the Ethical Society of Philadelphia, declared that America alone can solve the armament problem. "Each nation is at present maintaining a great army and navy because its neighbor is doing so. The future lies with America. Let

her lift the sublime torch of peace above the world and the nations of Europe will turn their eyes to it. To America will go the homage and reverence of all ages." In his lecture on "The Great Green Table," delivered in many cities, and through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ramsay heard at the Fairmont Seminary, Washington, D. C., by an exceptionally fine audience, Mr. Noyes described the system of war preparation prevailing in Europe as "a game of half-witted children, a stupendous modern financial gamble, a mathematical problem of slaughter, a thing absolutely without the faith of the people." "Seated about the Great Green Table are the nations of the world spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a dead thing, while their peasantries starve." "Today war is promoted mainly by the greed of land. The present system is against nature. It is an anomaly which will end either in disaster or in the final establishment of permanent peace." If the United States could only get an immediate sense of its mission to the world in this matter, what might not happen!

War Will be Avoided.

In submitting the government's increased army and tax bills on April 7, the German Imperial Chancellor expressed his belief that a European conflagration would in all probability be avoided. He had made special efforts since assuming office to cultivate good relations with Russia, and believed the Russian ruler and ministers reciprocated his efforts. The French nation, he believed, was not striving for war, and the present French cabinet was peaceful. But the vigor with which his excellency pushed the new military scheme and the insinuations which he threw at both the French and the Pan-Slavists indicated that these conciliatory expressions were very superficial, and that at heart he believed that there was grave danger of war at an early date. The French and the Pan-Slavists were not slow to discover his real sentiments, and so the armament fever, and one might also say the danger of war, was intensified all over the continent. Winston Churchill's proposal in the British House of Commons that the building of new war armament be stopped for a year stands little chance of getting a hearing under such circumstances.

Intercollegiate Peace Association.

The first oratorical contest of the Intercollegiate Peace Association was held in 1907, Ohio and Indiana alone participating. At the contest in 1911, in connection with the Third American Peace Congress, seven States participated. Last year eleven States held oratorical contests, and this year there are sixteen States participating in these contests. With the increase in the number of States it has been necessary to organize the States into groups. Last year there were two groups and this year